Indian goods facing competition from abroad'

2608. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item that appeared on page 14 cols 7-8 of Indian Express (New Delhi) dated the 21st November, 1991 captioned 'Recession looming large on textile export front', wherein it has been stated that Indian goods are racing tough competition from Pakistan, Indonesia, China, Taiwan and South Korea;

(b) if so, the extent of decline in export during the last one year; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take to boost exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has been no decline in export of cotton textiles dur ing the last one year. Despite competition from other countries exports have actually shown a significant increase of 38.5% during 1990-91 as compared to the achievement in 1989-90. During the period April-Oct'91 exports have registered a growth of 55.9%.

Provision for Textiles Labour Resettlement Fund Scheme

2609. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the Textile Labour Resettlement Fund Scheme and what provision has been made there under for 1991-92 and the relief so far provided thereunder;

(b) whether the scheme has been implemented/successful in safeguarding the interests of labourers in Orissa and Rajasthan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme has been setup to provide interim relief to workers rendered unemployed as a consequence of permanent closure of a textile unit which has been regis- j tered either with Textile Commissioner, or under Industries (D&R) Act, f 1951. Relief under the Scheme is avail able only for 3 years on a tapering basis I 75 % of the wage equivalent in the firs year of the closure of the unit, 50% in the second year and 25% of the wage equivalent in the 3rd year. An amount of Rs. 60 crores has been provided for disbursement during 1991-92. Till 4th November, 1991, an amount of Rs. 35.96 crores has been paid as relief to the workers thereunder.

(b) and (c) There is no eligible mill either in Rajasthan or Orissa for getting relief under the Scheme.

Closure of Sick Textile Mills

@2610. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact athat Government have allowed sick textile mills to be closed down without their approval; and

(a) whether it is a fact a that Government have allowed sick textile mills to be closed down without their approval; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TE XTILES (SHRI ASHOK GLELOT): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not rise in view of (a) above.

Export Duty on Cotton Yarn

2611. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased *to* state ' whether a representation has been received by Government to levy export duty on cotton yarn exported and to use the proceeds of the export duty to subsidised the cotton yarn prices to help handloom industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): No such proposal is currently under consideration of the Government.

@ Previously Unstarred Question 1444, transferred from the 5th December, 1991